

**Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School**  
**Ingham Close**  
**Sleights**  
**Whitby**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**YO22 5DN**



*Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.*

**Website:** [www.sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

**Telephone:** 01947 810395

**Headteacher:** Scott Grason

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Dear families,

It is quite scary how quickly this half term is going! We are half way through it already. It has been lovely to welcome the sunshine and warmer weather this week. Seeing the children outside enjoying the beautiful weather and grounds at school has simply been wonderful.

With the warmer weather on its way, please could I ask that children bring water bottles to school with them to keep hydrated during the day.

The sunshine and warmer weather also often brings a pile of jumpers or cardigans that have been taken off when children are too hot. This usually is not a problem when they are named, but, as you can imagine, returning the correct unnamed jumper or cardigan can be hard. Please could all families help with this by ensuring their child's clothes are named clearly. Thank you!

#### **In the classrooms this week**

The Explorers children have enjoyed getting out into the sunshine this week. In the classroom, the children have been working hard on threading buttons and investigating sound. I really enjoyed seeing the children talking into stacked tyres and spotting how their voices changed. They were really excited to hear how the sound changed and some even began climbing into the tyres to investigate further... they certainly are Explorers!

Pioneers have enjoyed choosing their own class books this week. Each morning, Mrs Hann has been setting up two choices for books to read at the end of the day and the children have then been voting for their favourite by writing their names and posting their idea. They have loved this new idea to make reading exciting! Also causing great excitement this week has been the growing tadpoles. So much fun and enjoyment has been had watching the development and changes of the frogspawn. A huge thank you to Kai's family for helping us with this.

Mrs Wall, our Vice Chair of Governors, and I really enjoyed our visit to Adventurers this week. The children were hard at work with maths and were representing sums in different ways. It was really excellent to see our Key Stage One children tackling multiplication. They drew different ways to show the sums and it was clear they were really proud of their achievements. Great work.

The Discoverers have welcomed Mrs Morrison back this week. After a period of absence from school, Mrs Morrison has been working closely with Mrs Walker to plan and deliver the children's lessons. Mrs Walker and Mrs Morrison will continue to work closely together over the coming weeks, as the children benefit from having both teachers with them.

With great perseverance and determination, the Leaders children have tackled algebra this week. This is always a tricky area of maths, but in typical Leaders style, they have approached it with a smile. The children in Year 6 are working hard in preparation for their end of Key Stage 2 SATS, which take place in May. Please, therefore, try and make sure they are always at school so that they can receive as much support as possible. Thank you.

Go Team Sleights!

#### **Jenga - a request**

If you have any wooden blocks or Jenga sets at home that you no longer need, we would be grateful to receive them in school, please. We have some ideas about how they could be used to teach spelling/reading. Thank you!

### School Visitors

On Monday morning, we were pleased to welcome the Headteacher, a teaching assistant and some children from Ruswarp Church of England School. As our Church School neighbour, members of the Sleights worship committee showed the Ruswarp visitors around the school to showcase what makes our school great. The visitors also enjoyed collective worship and met with Mrs. Vicar. Thank you to the children who led the Ruswarp tour. I know that we really impressed them and have given them lots of ideas!

### Eskdale Festival

Well done to Zac, Amelia, Ellie, Darcey and Amelia who represented the school at the Eskdale Festival Gala Concert on Saturday evening. Whilst a prior engagement meant I couldn't be there myself, I have been told by many audience members how amazing the children were. They represented the school perfectly!

A special mention to Ellie, who, after winning the Lewis Carroll class during the festival, was presented with a fifty pound cheque for the school. Thank you and well done, Ellie!

### Milk

During lunchtime, for a number of years, the children have been offered free milk. This is **not** included in the school meal price, which includes all of the correct balance and nutrition. All children who ask for milk do have it served to them, but we have found that a significant proportion of this has then been left. As a result, we are unable to continue offering this free extra. With well over 100 children in school, as I am sure you can imagine, it is quite tricky to manage ensuring that children who ask for milk then do drink it. However, we do understand that some families may wish for their child to continue having milk. Therefore, please look out for information next week about a scheme that is used in many other local schools, where parents can pay for their child to have a portion of milk each day in school. Thank you in anticipation for your support with this. We are attempting to address a balance of lots of opinion with this solution.

### Tree Gift

You may remember me telling you a few weeks ago that we were gifting the children a tree. This week, the classes have been preparing these gifts, wrapping and identifying the trees ready for sending home. We want to make a difference with this gift and hope that everyone plants them at home and watches them grow. We know that if every tree is planted we can make a difference to our world.

### Facebook

We are incredibly lucky to have such supportive families at Sleights. I also feel that, as a school, we are very open and if there are ever any worries or concerns, families can speak with me directly, or to their child's class teacher. Because of this, I was rather sad this week to hear that a **very** small number of parents had been taking to Facebook to 'offload'. The Local Authority has strict procedures in place for dealing with negative comments that are displayed on social media, so could I urge that instead of telling Facebook your worries or complaints, you tell me. Thank you in advance for this.

### Family Service – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March





As shown on the diary dates sent home at the start of the term, we will be holding a family celebration at St. John's this coming Friday. The service will start at 9.30am and all families are invited to join us.

We are fortunate at Sleights to have a huge school family made up of many special people who are cared for by different family members. It is for this reason we didn't want to hold an exclusive Mother's Day service, but instead celebrate our whole families. We hope to see lots of you there.

### Attendance update – 0.2% unauthorised absences due to family holidays

Our attendance is on the up again! I am so pleased to share this week's results (the highest for a quite a while!) Thank you to everyone for working together to tackle this.

<b>Whole school attendance so far this year:</b>	95.4%	<b>Target for whole school attendance this year:</b>	96%
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<b>Whole school attendance this week</b>	<b>Pioneers attendance this week</b>	<b>Adventurers attendance this week</b>	<b>Discoverers attendance this week</b>	<b>Leaders attendance this week</b>
97.9% 	95.6%	99.2% 	98.2% 	98.2% 

Happy weekend!

Scott Grason  
Headteacher